



# COW HERD



## Management Calendar for North Carolina Producers

*Profitability of your cow herd depends on good planning and appropriate timing of major herd activities. The calendar in this fact sheet offers timelines for both spring (January through March) and fall (October through December) calving. Planning activities based on the appropriate timeline will help prevent a prolonged calving season, decreased conception rates, and lowered profitability. When the timelines do not correspond to your calving season, adjust the practices outlined for your herd. Record your monthly management practices in the table at the end of this publication.*

### Each Month

- Consult the Cow Herd Management Calendar and implement herd health practices suggested for the month.
- Provide clean, adequate water for your herd and free access to a high quality mineral supplement. Make sure you use a high magnesium supplement when there is potential for grass tetany.
- Check cattle for health disorders including pinkeye, foot rot, etc. Treat at the first sign of these disorders.
- Check fences and facilities.
- Check forage availability. If limited, consider feeding hay in a confined area.
- Body condition score all cattle.

### During Calving

- Move bred heifers to calving area 10 days before calving expected.
- Check mature cows two to four times a day and heifers more frequently during calving season.

- Check heifers every 3 to 4 hours after calving starts. Assist with delivery if no progress is seen no more than 1 hour after the water bag is visible.
- Dip navel in iodine or chlorhexidine and tag calves at birth. Record birth dates, calf tag numbers, cow ID.
- Help newborn calf nurse, if needed.
- Castrate and implant bull calves at birth if possible.
- Observe calves for scours and respiratory problems.
- Observe cows for uterine prolapse and retained placenta.
- Move pairs to clean pastures as soon as possible after calving.
- Drench calves dehydrated by scours with electrolytes, and treat with sulfa or antibiotics as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Mark cows having calving difficulty or udder problems for early culling.

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